

Apr 10<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Dr. Leman

I have been busier the past two months than ever before in Sydney and in addition am doing 2 more out patient days a week at St Vincent's hosp! so this makes 4 aftns a week and the total leaves me disinclined to write of an evening and I can't get time in the day. The last I heard from you, you were expecting to leave in a little while for France. This would be after your London leave when you were going to Tring. Now all this big Hun push has taken place & I am constantly wondering if you are in the scrap. I so trust you have so far escaped uninjured. Dr Mac sent me a small photo of his hospital group on a folding card with remembrance.

I suppose his time is too fully occupied to do any writing so I must forgive him.

Here, things are in a curious stage. The Home Govt. has sent an urgent message for men and it has fallen on pretty deaf ears but this week Capt Carrichael M La who was returned wounded or ill is rallying the recruiting & is getting another 1000 known as "Car's" 1000 together similar to what he raised before.



Also the recruiting scheme is being patronised  
and a big conference of all parties political  
& otherwise is being held in Melb: in a couple of  
days to see if some unity cannot be got in order  
that all may accelerate the finding of men.

They all have set on Hughes who is really  
all words. I only trust that their efforts  
will be the means of some thousands being  
sent to help the Aust<sup>n</sup> troops who have made  
the world ring with their bravery & qualities.

Arthur passed his leaving certificate  
exam but failed in Maths a compulsory  
subject for medicine. He then enlisted  
for the artillery but was turned down by the  
Br's as medically unfit "cardiac weakness"

He has not got anything wrong with his  
heart as an organ, only on very violent  
exertion he collapses. He was awfully cut  
up, as a lot of his mates have been accepted.

I think he will grow out of it as he is not yet  
stopped from going. You see he has only just  
finished his 19<sup>th</sup> year (Dec: 30<sup>th</sup>) He then went  
up for medicine & passed well & is doing his 1<sup>st</sup>  
year but intends having another cut at the  
enlisting later on.



Attil has been laid up with water on the knee, for 5 weeks and I am taking him in to see our leading surgeon this week as it is very slow in going down. — We spent a month on the coast N of Hanly, in Jan 3 when there picked up a big *Blomeda exulans* on the beach. It measured about 12ft from tip to tip. Took the head for a specimen. The foot had been cut off evidently for a tobacco pouch. We also got a specimen of Jardine's Caterpillar-eater and a fine pair of *Sterna bergii*. Intend to get the Jardine's nest next season if all is well.

The usual Easter Show & Races drew a big crowd again and on one day a recruiting effort at the show produced 1 recruit!

We are now in the midst of raising a 40 million pounds loan. It closes today & I think they will easily get it as money is pouring in. We liked your photo but you seemed very solemn & I think your hat is a bit big. Hope you have a stove ordered by now and are showing the damn Hunston you can shoot.



I expect you are getting a bit better weather by now. We have had a very cool wet summer and hope you are getting some of old Sol's warmth into your bones, by now as it is distinctly autumn here.

I have not been any too well the past 2 months. Hard graft and some bronchitis & a slight ear condition. All this however seems so petty to what you fellows have to put up with. All the same if I could only put my age back I would like very much to be in it & at times I feel very despondent at not being able to give a hand in some way other than at home. The extra hospital work I am doing is to let a colleague go to Egypt. It is all I can do.

I hope this will find you. You are often in our thoughts and I have a feeling that you will distinguish yourself -

I see you are concerned to the trinomial theory

If it could be made less puzzling many would doubtless take to it. I confess I am "agen it" for the ordinary naturalist bird lover.

It may be all right for the extreme scientist.

Must close up. The wife joins me in the hope that you are safe & well & will see the end of the war this year & return to us safely.

I sent you a Bulletin or two. Hope you got them

Up to a trigger E a Doubrain



Cordell

Pyramble

19.6.17

Dear Mac.

First of all I hope this will find you well and free of wound & illness. I forget if your letter from the Camp in England was answered or not but I rather think it was & I have sent you a bulletin or two which I hope reached you safely. It is very difficult to write a letter now a days, for with those who care the one absorbing topic is the war, & I am sure you don't want to hear about that. Only it is very distressing to see how the fellows who could go will not go. I know of as many as 6 eligibles in our family, in 2 places who will not budge. I am wondering if you have looked up my friend Mr Mitchell (AIF) at Australia house (London) He often writes & each time he says "no sign of McLeannan" He remembers meeting you at our place at Cremorne years ago. So if you get a chance look him up he will make you welcome. If you should be in Southampton look up a big drapery firm Lyrell Green & ask for Mr A. Gibbins & tell him you know me he will do you proud. He is my Brother in law -

We are now in our midwinter and a very dry one it is. Quail this season and duck, are in enormous quantities chiefly owing to 3 good seasons, cartridges an enormous price & fewer men to kill them. Our wildlife preservation society (which I started) has good show of getting our new bird protection bill introduced this session & a stop will be put to the needless



Slaughter of animals & birds. Fancy a  
new chum labourer I had working here to come  
shot 3 lye birds at Fordon in the middle <sup>Warton</sup>  
scrub - a mile or two from here - Also he  
shot a native bear. I put the fear of God into  
him but of course he was quite ignorant of any  
protection laws. When you last wrote you were  
becoming a convert to the Matthewian morning.  
I cannot help thinking that it may be all right  
for pure science but I think it both unwieldy  
& unnecessary for the cabinet & field collector.

How did you like your visit to Thring?  
I had a little photo postcard from Tom  
but as he did not send any address I cannot  
write him. He looked very fit & soldierly.

Le Sueur of the zoo asks me if I know where  
to find you. He got a shock when I said "Somewhere  
in France." I was proud to tell him too. He  
wanted to get you to get some N 2 birds for  
the zoo at a decent price, & especially the  
Black cockatoo. My old bird is in great fettle  
but he is terribly fat & a growing creeper  
or rose bush or anything like that. I have a  
straw netted him in the garden & he answers  
to the name of George. He is a great pet but  
craps all over the place plentifully.

I must pull up. This is only a short letter  
& just to keep your memory green. Hope you  
will soon be returning. Best wishes from the  
wife & boys and self. Cheers to  
Yr sincere friend J. A. Coubrain



Lydell

1<sup>st</sup> Oct.

1915

Dear Ivo

I am hoping you will get this in time for London for which festive occasion (?) I wish you may have as good a time as is to be had under the circumstances. We are just hearing the news of the possibility of Bulgaria chucking us her ally & chucking over her allies.

Also we are delighted at the way the boys are rounding up Johnny Turk in Palestine.

It is cheery news and it makes one feel or almost predict that the end is not far off.

We are having our Spring weather and Atlet is busy after the nests. He has found a great no. & keeps excellent field notes.

He & his mates took a Seagull's with 2 eggs at Hawkbury. He is very hot on the trail of Ny. Cantal and the imm. were found on nest of latter with 4 Kickers on Patz (a few days ago). He found 2 nests of the Brushwattle birds each with one egg only & as each was incubated evidently this was the complete clutch. He took a flying shot <sup>with his catapult</sup> at a green bird he saw coming some distance off. He brought



it down and it turned out to be a little  
green backed pigeon. I made a fine skin  
of it. He is a clicking shot with the Sheng.

Arthur has passed his 1<sup>st</sup> year medicine  
and is now a Digger having enlisted in  
the university unit 160 strong (a faulty)  
is in camp. He will be leaving for Eng-  
in a very little while I understand.

I heard from Eric Purison Roonath, last  
week he is back home wounded & de-  
mobilised and is taking up his collecting  
again & is going to do the Juba & Percy  
off Portland this season. He is doing some  
collecting round Easton.

Do not have any word from you since you  
were writing in the cold on Palo & Plain &  
I am often thinking where you are & what  
you are doing. I send you papers every  
now & then, hope they reach you.

Old Tom is splendid & as mischievous  
as ever, & full of life. The Culla laid her  
usual 3 eggs this year nearly on the  
same date as last year. I remember  
now that I heard from you in France & how



you told me of The Cuckoo & the other birds. A J Campbell is bringing out a book of his ornithological wanderers very shortly. It ought to be good if he only leaves out the hymns & psalms which he loves to adorn his writings with.

The Spring racing machine is abroad & the dreamer dreameth unnumbered results already although the Cup is a full month off.

I am going to have a day at the bush fullis up the Hauterbury line on Monday. It is 8 hours day. I wish you could be there. It is the haunt of the rufous bird and *Pericornis citreogularis* & *Monarcha*. I hope we have a fine day. I would sooner hear you were all demobilised though than anything else in the line of pleasure but I think now you've got them on the march backwards you must keep at it, & finish him off. —

How wonderfully the Aussies have fought. There is no doubt



about it. The Hun made a big  
mistake in his estimate of the  
Aust<sup>rian</sup> character; as he has over  
every other estimate of the minds  
of people. — General Pan his  
French mission are here. Macquarie  
& other ships are gay with bunting  
& we are giving them a sort of public  
welcome.

I must conclude this as patients  
are arriving. P. Rong. Cherth.

W. R. S. V.

P. A. D. O. U. B. R. A. I. N.



17. 2. 19

Dear Mrs.

Hip hooray at your being back in Aussie once again. I did intend dashing you a wire on the due date but was not sure if you were in hospital or Castlemore or in Khaki. Anyhow these are a few lines to say we are all relieved to think you are safe if not sound. About the soundness I can only conjecture as don't know if you are invalided or a returned empty carriage paid, or what.

If the former, just go easy & get quite fit. When you all get your deserts I expect to see you on your own homestead block. We are having a fearfully hot summer & in this city & suburbs we have not had  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches of rain since June!

I am enclosing a good snap of a friend's husband expanding his fular pouch as a sort of marriage settlement for his mate whom I have in another picture.

Remember me to all your folk. I can fancy your mother's & sister's delight at the 2 boys return, & pride in their soldier sons. My boy was in camp 2 mo. The Armistice



coming about put them all  
out of it much to their disgust  
your delight. Anyone who wants  
to go to war for any reason is a liar  
or a lunatic. He may feel (or shout)  
that he ought to go. —

Here we are all in masks &  
I feel sure it has kept the infection  
of flu within bounds.

Will you go to the R A O U camp  
in Q in Sept? I don't generally  
call for a push, as one gets in  
these outings. —

Well Cheer Qh.

All well this side

Yr to an eye  
A D'Ourbrain



Coen

9/3/23

To,  
The Manager,  
Golden Casket Art Union.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed find postal notes to the value of



Gayka's pylon isn't near so fast as a 5 wpt.

Was shooting them one day & fired at a bird flying away from me; I saw him with a thin part on extra speed, zigzagging from side to side, ~~up~~ up & down, at last it started to somersault & fell flop. Picked it up but could not see any shot marks on it, so held a post mortem to see if it died from heart disease, discovered that it had overcasten itself, its tummy was full of the shot that I fired at it; the extra weight was its downfall.